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R 241504Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 353

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA

CNO WASHDC///OP-614

DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII

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FOR POLADS

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEB 24

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF WORLD AFFAIRS HAS SLACKENED SOMEWHAT AS IT TURNS ITS ATTENTION TO THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS NOW CONVENING IN MOSCOW. BUT HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS LIGHT COVERAGE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD:

--SUBSTANTIVE COVERAGE OF THE U.S. SHOWS THE U.S. POPULACE SUPPORTING DETENTE, ACCORDING TO GEORGE GALLUP; AND THREE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HOPEFULS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE DOING THE SAME;

-- THE PRESS CONTINUES TO PRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE PROGRAM, FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE BENEFITS WHICH CAME FROM THIS POLICY TO "SOCIALIST" STATES AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS;

-- THE CANADIAN CP HEAD, NOW IN MOSCOW, IN A TV INTERVIEW WARNED THAT COMMUNIST PARTIES WHO STRAY FROM THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW IDEOLOGICAL PATH IN SEARCH OF TEMPORARY POPULARITY RISK WORKING CLASS INTERESTS;

-- AND BRIEF COVERAGE ON ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA SHOWS CURRENT SOVIET REACTION TO EVENTS IN THOSE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. A LENGTHY COMMENTARY BY PRAVDA WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STREL'NIKOV REVOLVES AROUND INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE GALLUP IN PRINCETON, WHOSE RESEARCHES SHOW, STREL'NIKOV SAYS, THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORTS IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. STREL'NIKOV WARNS THAT DETENTE OPPONENTS (UNNAMED) ARE ATTEMPTING TO SOW SUSPICION AMONG THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN PEOPLE REGARDING THE SOVIET UNION'S WORLD INTENTIONS AND TO BREAK OFF THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A BRIEF TASS ITEM EXPLAINING THE COURSE OF AMERICAN PRIMARIES AND NOTING SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. UDALL, HARRIS, AND SHRIVER ARE QUOTED AS SUPPORTING DETENTE, WITH UDALL GETTING ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FOR HAVING "CONDEMNED THE INTENTION OF THE PENTAGON TO CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY THE ARMS RACE."

IZVESTIYA IN AN UNSIGNED ITEM SAYS THAT THE CESSATION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO INDIA SHOWS THAT SUCH AID IS USED BY THE U.S. AS A WEAPON TO PRESSURE INDEPENDENT STATES.

3. PEACE PROGRAM. PRAISE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OVER LAST FIVE YEARS CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE PRESS, WITH A NOTICEABLE TENDENCY TO STRESS THE GAINS BROUGHT BY THE PEACE PROGRAM TO "SOCIALIST" AND "PROGRESSIVE" STATES AND MOVEMENTS. IZVESTIYA SAYS THAT THE PEACE PROGRAM "PROMOTES THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM AND NATIONAL LIBERATION TO A VERY GREAT DEGREE", AS WAS DEMONSTRATED IN VIETNAM AND ANGOLA. THE SAME ITEM SAYS THAT THE PEACE PROGRAM "DEMONSTRATED THE POSSIBILITY OF NARROWING THE FIELD OF ACTION AND MANEUVER OF IMPERIALISM". PRAVDA'S LEAD EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE CPSU "CARRIES HIGH THE BANNER OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, DOING EVERYTHING FOR THE SUPPORT AND STRENGTHENING OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES--WORLD SOCIALISM, THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MOVEMENT, AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS". A KRASNAYA ZVEZDA COMMENTARY SAYS THAT AMONG THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE PROGRAM WERE VICTORY IN VIETNAM, RECOGNITION OF THE GDR, AND DISRUPTION OF THE CUBAN BLOCKADE. COMMENT. THE ABOVE LINE SUGGESTS THAT GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH AT THE PARTY CONGRESS (SEPTEL) WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS IN ADVANCE. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA'S LISTING OF ACHIEVMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, IS IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF BREZHNEV. END COMMENT.

4. COMMUNIST AFFAIRS. CANADIAN COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD KASHTEN, IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE NATIONAL EVENING TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS, SAID THAT THE CANADIAN PARTY HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANAGED TO AVOID ANY FORMS OF REVISIONISM OR OTHER DEVIATIONS, "UNLIKE SOME OTHER PARTIES", WHO, ATTRACTED BY THE PROMISE OF "PASSING POPULARITY", DECLARE THAT THEY ARE "INDEPENDENT". KASHTEN CONTINUED THAT SUCH "INDEPENDENCE" MEANT ONLY THAT THEY WERE DECLARING THEMSELVES NO LONGER PART OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BOURGEOISIE, AND WARNED THAT THE TEMPORARY GAINS MADE WHILE IN THE LAP OF "PASSING POPULARITY" WILL SOON FADE, AND THE REAL LOSER WILL BE WITH WORKING CLASS. COMMENT. KASHTEN WAS APPARENTLY WELL BRIEFED FOR THE INTERVIEW; VIDE BREZHNEV'S SPEECH, WHICH CONTAINS A VERY SIMILAR PASSAGE. END COMMENT.

5. EAST ASIA. PRAVDA NOTES VERY BRIEFLY THE OPENING OF THE ASEAN CONFERENCE ON BALI, BUT ADDS NEITHER

FULLER DETAILS NOR ANY COMMENT. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS, IN APPROVING TONE, OF COURSE, THAT LAOS HAS BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

6. MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. IN VERY LIGHT COVERAGE, PRAVDA LAMENTS THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI DEFENSE BUDGET CONTINUES TO RISE. ON ANGOLA, PRAVDA COMMENTS THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS STILL AN ISSUE IN SOME COUNTRIES, BUT, NEVERTHELESS, THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF THE MPLA REGIME IS STILL GROWING. IZVESTIYA BRIEFLY MENTIONS THE OPENING OF THE OAU-CM SESSION IN ADDIS ABABA, AND NOTES THAT ANGOLA WILL PARTICIPATE FOR THE FIRST TIME. AN ACCOMPANYING INTERVIEW WITH NETO IS FAIRLY STANDARD FARE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE CONTRAST BETWEEN NETO'S LAVISH PRAISE OF MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR HIS MOVEMENT AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST.
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